



City of Minneapolis Employment & Training

Monthly Update – October, 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 19, 2013:
Minneapolis
Workforce Council
Meeting
8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
Crown Roller Mill
105 5th Ave. S.
Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN

Nov. 20, 2013:
Minneapolis Youth
Council Meeting
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Fairview Energy
Park Bldg.
2344 Energy Park Dr.,
St. Paul, MN

WHAT'S NEW?

Employment & Opportunity Guide for Minneapolis Youth

Resources for
teens seeking
employment,
internships,
and more
[View the guide.](#)

Minnesota Works Blog Page

Resources for
job seekers.
[See blog here.](#)

RENEW Workforce Training Program Receives Award

On October 9, the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) received a 2013 IEDC Excellence in Economic Development silver award for its sustainable workforce development program RENEW.

"These awards honor the organizations and individuals who are dedicated to making a positive change in their communities," said IEDC chair, Paul Krutko. This organization uses creative solutions and inventive ideas, and offers other regions a wonderful example to learn and benefit from."

RENEW began in 2010 with a four million dollar US Department of Labor employment and training grant to assist Minneapolis and St. Paul residents to access credentialed skills training and job placement support leading to high quality, living wage jobs with a focus on a "green skill set." By collaborating with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, Minneapolis Employment and Training (METP) created a dynamic system of job training that leveraged the strengths and talents of community-based employment service organizations, workforce investment boards, both public and private training partners, and businesses.

RENEW's goal was to create opportunities for disadvantaged community members including military veterans, the unemployed or underemployed, individuals with disabilities, ex-offenders, high school dropouts, or individuals over the age of 55. The program builds upon the skills of jobseekers by delivering industry-identified training and credentials, resulting in a win-win for both participants and businesses. This system delivered value to businesses by supplying an in-demand candidate pool equipped with high-value skills that were ready to contribute "day one" on the job.

By September 2012, 586 Minneapolis and St. Paul residents were trained for careers in construction-deconstruction, manufacturing, building systems management, and renewable energy with a solar power focus. Of these, 487 trainees earned industry recognized credentials and 420 were placed in unsubsidized employment. Of those placed, 80% secured jobs in training-related employment.

To learn more about RENEW or other METP workforce development solutions, visit the City of Minneapolis [RENEW webpage](#) or call Marie Larson at 612.673.5292.

Platform 2 Employment Holds Graduation

On October 24, 2013, a graduation ceremony honoring Platform 2 Employment (P2E) participants took place at the North Minneapolis Workforce Center.

For the eighteen graduates, the milestone marks the completion of an intensive, five-week job search curriculum.

Several graduates interviewed for open positions immediately upon completion and all are actively pursuing employment.

P2E helps business find skilled, experienced employees and offers businesses a risk-free opportunity to evaluate talent prior to hiring.

The City of Minneapolis in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), NorthPoint Health and Wellness, and Community Neighborhood Housing Services is the sixth pilot to launch P2E nationally.

If your company is interested in hiring P2E graduates, contact Marie Larson at 612.673.5292.

ISEEK Is Making Changes

ISEEK has changed its career and industry profiles to better align with state and national career information and help students and job seekers find relevant information more easily.

- Career profiles increased from 530 to about 800; some career names will change.

- Industry profiles increased from 69 to about 90; some industry names will change.
- Careers and industries are aligned better with labor market information, like wages, employment outlook, skill requirements and other data.

Visit [ISEEK](#).

What Employers Are Really Looking For

Recent interviews with Minnesota employers in nine different industries show that employers are looking for a variety of skills in their workers but the two qualities that came up most often are

soft skills (problems solving, good communicators and team players) and hands-on experience.

Read the whole article at [ISEEK](#).

National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Is Seeking Minnesota Manufacturers for New Incentive Program

NIMS has launched a new training incentive program for manufacturing employers that is focused on closing the manufacturing workforce skills gap in Minnesota.

The "Technical Skills Training Grant" provides employers with a NIMS competency based training, tracking and reporting system in support of on-the-job (OJT) training of CNC machine tool operators. Employers who sign-up to participate in the program will be able to customize a program that fits their specific training needs including selecting the timeline in which to complete the training.

The program offers extra incentives to employers who commit to hiring new employees who have been unemployed or underemployed for at least 27 weeks including a \$4.00/hour wage subsidy for 520 hours (\$2,080) of work and free NIMS certified OJT trainer instruction. The grant period is January 1, 2014-December 31, 2015 (four years).

We are currently looking for interested manufacturers. For more information, please contact Marie Larson, City of Minneapolis Employment & Training, at 612.673.5292.

Gustavo Marquez, a Success Story

When Gustavo Marquez first enrolled in the City of Minneapolis Adult Program in March 2012, he was feeling depressed and hopeless. At the age of 50, he had lost his entertainment business and found himself without permanent housing and staying with friends. He had borrowed money from family and faced the challenges and frustrations of finding a new job.

He attended Employment Ready U and obtained his Gold National Career Readiness certificate and was offered a part-time position at Enterprise Rental Car that June. He decided to accept this position to get his foot in the door for other potential opportunities.

At Enterprise Rent a Car, he was offered a new, more lucrative position as a Manager in one of their locations. He was also offered a position at MCTC as a Student Counselor for fall 2013.

Now Gustavo has his own apartment and continues to build success in all avenues of his life. As a result of his efforts, his family is also coming back together.

Article submitted by Any Delgado, GCDF
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[METP Website](#)